EPRI Policy Framework

Research & Development Software Policy

Policy Statement

EPRI develops and distributes high quality research & development (R&D) software products that support the EPRI mission and provide value to its customers. EPRI will not produce software if it does not support the EPRI research mission.

All EPRI R&D software shall be developed and maintained following the standard processes outlined in the Software Development Guidelines. The guidelines describe the processes for the application of knowledge, skills, tools and techniques to software development and life cycle management activities in order to meet project requirements and EPRI R&D Software Policy goals.

Definition of Terms

Research & Development (R&D) Software - EPRI software that supports the research mission and is distributed or delivered to the members. Some examples of software that supports the EPRI mission are:

- Transfer of EPRI research to the end user via training products, databases, or executable code that implements an EPRI process described in a report.
- EPRI software-based research: these are algorithms or processes that cannot be created or even imagined until software is created, the research process develops software algorithms across many cases until an adequate solution is found.
- Data collection and dissemination: software that enables data sharing between members that would not otherwise be able to share data, including analyzing industry trends, identifying common problems and solutions, and determining additional EPRI research opportunities.

R&D Software is not:

- Existing commercial software that meets the need or could be with minimal modification; it is not in EPRI's mission to compete with existing solutions.
- Custom software for a single or small set of users (unless there is a clear, larger research driver, although such software should conform to the Software Development Guidelines).
- Software created internal to EPRI to support a customer project, but the software itself will not be delivered to the customer(s) (although such software shall adhere to the EPRI Research Integrity Policy and should conform to the Software Development Guidelines).

Software - computer program that performs tasks. Software examples include:

- Applications
- Simulations or modeling in computers
- Databases
- Spreadsheets
- E-media
- Tools
- Mobile applications
- Web sites

Software Development Guidelines - To produce R&D software at EPRI requires use of EPRI's software development process. These processes define content, design, implementation with end user, quality assurance, test plans, distribution, and product life cycle maintenance. The processes are found at:

Software Development Requirements

Applicability

Applicable to employees, temporary employees, resident researchers, and all other individuals acting on EPRI's behalf, including R&D contractors.

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